

**NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting**  
**May 4, 2011 MINUTES**  
**Location: Newton City Hall Cafeteria**

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Present: Joe De Vito Chair, Chris Fortunato, Matt Green, Peter Harrington, Jeff Mace, Ellen Manning, Stephan Ross, Terence Sack Robert Staulo, Zachery Eagle  
Staff: Ruth Hoshino, School Nurse Leader, Health and Human Services  
Guests: Tom Pomeroy  
Student Interns: Teekhon Davidoff(NSHS), Jaya Forsythe(NNHS), Issac Rogers, Malik Reid, (NSHS), Zoë Smith(Dana Hall), Jay Sobel (NSHS), Nicole Wantman

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The meeting was opened at 7:10 PM and chaired by Joe De Vito.

A vote to accept the minutes of April 6, 2011 was passed.

- **Treasurer's Report:** The budget for FY 2010 operating budget is \$2500. Expenses to date = \$456.02 Current balance = \$2,423.99
- The Improbable Players are scheduled to perform at Newton South on May 19<sup>th</sup> from 12:40 – 1:35 PM and the cost will be about \$700. The annual award dinner is set for June and the total cost (according to the past two year's expenditures) is about \$400
- The Mayor's Public Service Interns are interested in e-CHUG (electronic Check-Up to Go) - an interactive web survey that allows students to enter information about their drinking patterns and receive feedback about their use of alcohol. This is now available as a high school level program. The cost is about \$975. Ruth will check into accessing the Youth Commission revolving account to help fund this program.

**New or Old Business**

- **Mayor's Public Service Internship Program Update**

The interns gave a review of the recently held Safety Week/Summit from the Newton High Schools. They staffed a booth introducing their work from 12 – 4 PM. In summary, although a nice event, it needed better organization, more communication (especially with adults) and increased focus on the reason for the event. Students were awarded stickers to redeem for prizes and fun activities like massages were popular. Overall, the turnout was only fair and it seemed that some students were required to be there (athletic teams). Asked if as a group, they would participate again, the interns thought with more organization, they would. They felt they did get their name out to some parents and that was worthwhile.

Also noted is that recent parent events such as A Promise to Adam at North, a presentation about depression at South and a district-wide middle school Bullying Prevention program had very limited attendance. Reasons for this could be: parent fatigue from many planned programs, parental denial, some seeing Newton as having fewer social problems than other communities, and the natural drop-off of parent school involvement as children get older. Even after tragic events, parent participation fades as time goes by.

Joe expressed his gratitude to the teens for the hard work that they have done this year. Their idea to record and post their important conversations will memorialize the discussions and can provide a lasting impact.

- **Annual Youth Service Award Dinner Discussion**

Scheduled for June 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM, the dinner will be held in the city hall cafeteria and will be catered by the city hall café. The invitation will be sent via email with RSVP required. The mayor will be invited.

- **Police seeking information about student gathering events**

Officer Mace spoke about a recent Cabot playground fight where 75 -100 high school spectators gathered and no contact had been made with any adults. This being the second event of this type this year; the students were asked "what can be done" to avoid this type of potentially serious occurrence where people can get hurt. These events can be arranged spontaneously using social media communications. During events like this, laws can be broken whether they take place on or off school property. Students report that they would likely hear about something of this nature on the same day it is to occur. They were encouraged to let trusted adults (such as Chris and Ellen) know of events being planned – possibly by text message. Try to do it ahead of the event so that unintentional bad consequences can be avoided. Although there is not currently a way to anonymously call police directly, by request, the identity of reporter will be kept private.

There may not be enough avenues for kids to get the word to adults and kids may worry about their social standing if they report events. An idea is to consider having a cash reward for the reporting of events.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next meeting and award dinner will be Wednesday, June 15, 2011 at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Hoshino